Susceptibility to affect-based framing effects as a predictor of psychic experience

Results:

Broughton's model of extrasensory perception proposes that the emotional system may have been co-opted by evolution to work with memory to present anomalous information in a manner that helps humans to make adaptive decisions when sensory information is inadequate. This study attempted to gain experimental support by using the framing effect as an individual differences measure of sensitivity to emotional input that would correlate with psychic experiences and/or ability. Framing effect sensitivity was measured using a financial risk behavioural task and a battery of 'Asian disease' style questions. The Australian Sheep-Goat questionnaire assessed psychic beliefs and experiences. Psychic ability was measured using the Intuitive Market Trader (a futures market share trading simulator) and a precognitive Remote Viewing task. Additional personality and cognitive style data were obtained from the IPIP NEO-FFI battery, Emotion Business Decision Making Inventory, and the Rational-Experiential Inventory. Results of the 125 completed participants indicated that both framing-effect tasks functioned as expected but neither measure showed any relationship with psychic experience or ability. As expected, the Experiential factor (only) of the REI was correlated positively and significantly with the psychic beliefs (p=.00002) and experiences (p=.000003) and the Experiential factor was also positively and significantly correlated with performance in the Intuitive Market Trader psychic ability test (p=.007). While REI results provide promising support for emotion-based models of psychic functioning, the principal goal of developing the framing effect as a predictor of psychic experience and ability was not achieved.

Published Works:

Areas of interest:

Parapsychology

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